

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REFUGEES EX-INDOCHINA UNHCR

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNHCR INFORMATION BULLETIN DATED JUNE 23, 1975 ON UNHCR EFFORTS BEHALF REFUGEES EX-INDOCHINA.

QUOTE: ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS OF 22 JUNE 1975, THE BIGGEST CONCENTRATIONS OF CAMBODIANS AND VIET-NAMESE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL USA AND US PACIFIC TERRITORIES ARE IN THAILAND (9,268), SINGAPORE (1,200), MALAYSIA (3,100), PHILIPPINES (200), HONG KONG (4,100), LAOS (700), AND INDO-NESEA (100).

THE UNITED NATIONAL HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS CONSEQUENTLY REINFORCED HIS EXISTING REPRESENTATION IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE AND HAS SENT CHARGE DE MISSIONS TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE, WITH A VIEW TO HELPING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE COUNTRIES FIND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE MAINFOLD PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THIS NEW SITUATION. THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WAS REQUESTED IN RESPECT OF TEMPORARY AND DURABLE ASYLUM, CARE AND MAINTENANCE, AND RESETTLEMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER RECEIVED A SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO ASSIST WITH THE VOLUNTARY RE-

PATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE, AND IS AT PRESENT PROCESSING SUCH APPLICATIONS ACCORDINGLY.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PRICIPAL AREAS OF UNHCR'S INVOLVEMENT WITH PERSONS FROM INDOCHINA OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

1. CARE AND MAINTENANCE PENDING RESETTLEMENT AND REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIANS, LAOTIANS AND VIETNAMESE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

1. IN THAILAND UNHCR IS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALISING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NEEDY GROUPS AMONG SOME 17,300 CAMBODIANS, LAOTIANS AND VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN THAILAND FOLLOWING EVENTS IN INDOCHINA IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. IN SINGAPORE UNHCR IS CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SOME 1,000 DISPLACED CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE ON THE BASIS OF US \$2 PER PERSON PER DAY. IN ADDITION, UNHCR WILL COVER EXPENSE FOR SUCH PERSONS FOR MEDICAL CARE, CLOTHING AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS.

3. IN MALAYSIA UNHCR IS NEGOTIATING AN APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE NEEDY AMONG 3,100 CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE.

4. IN THE PHILIPPINES SOME 200 CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE ARE PRESENTLY THE CONCERN OF UNHCR.

5. SOME ASSISTANCE FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR SMALL GROUPS MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED IN LAOS. THE UNHCR OFFICE IN THAT COUNTRY WILL BE HANDLING THIS AS PART OF ITS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. IN INDONESIA UNHCR MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF A FURTHER 100 SUCH PERSONS.

7. IN ADDITION, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS APPEALS FROM STRANDED CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE IN OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY FROM FORMER DIPLO-
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MATS AND STUDENTS, TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 1,000. WHEREVER NECESSARY, ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PROVIDE CARE AND MAINTENANCE PENDING THE REPATRIATION OR DURABLE RESETTLEMENT OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED.

B. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

IN ADDITION TO SOME SPONTANEOUS REPATRIATION WHICH HAS ALREADY
TAKEN PLACE, TO DATE OVER 2,000 PERSONS HAVE MADE FORMAL
APPLICATION THROUGH UNHCR FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

C. TRANSPORTATION FOR RESETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE
OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

1. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER APPEALED TO 46 SELECTED GOVERNMENTS
TO ACCEPT DISPLACED CAMBODIANS AND VEITNAMESE FOR DURABLE
RESETTLEMENT AND A NUMBER OF POSITIVE RESPONSES HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED.

2. UNHCR'S RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING
IMPLEMENTED ON THE BASIS OF THESE RESPONSES, AND ALREADY A NUMBER
OF PERSONS HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY ICEM AT THE REQUEST OF UNHCR
TO THEIR CHOSEN COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT.

3. THE RESPONSE BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY
GENEROUS, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT CONSEQUENTLY UP TO 15,000
CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE WHO WISH TO RESETTLE IN FRANCE WILL
BE GRANTED VISAS. WHILE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS MEETING
INTERNAL RESETTLEMENT COSTS, UNHCR IS REQUIRED TO MEET ALL COSTS OF
TRANSPORATION OF PERSONS TO FRANCE, WHEN THESE CANNOT BE COVERED
BY THE BENEFICIARIES OR ANY OTHER SOURCES.

4. ALTHOUGH AN ACCURATE PREDICTION IS DIFFICULT AT THIS STAGE
OF THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UNHCR WILL
ULTIMATELY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR IN
EXCESS OF 15,000 PERSONS. UNQUOTE. DALE

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